

Message Text

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TAGS: ESCAP, OCON

SUBJ: ESCAP MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON COOPERATION IN TRADE
FOR ASIA AND PACIFIC. MEETING OF SENIOR TRADE OFFICIALS,
NEW DELHI, 16-23 AUGUST 1978

REF: BANGKOK 19326

1. EMBASSY HAS JUST RECEIVED FORMAL INVITATION TO PARTICI
PATE IN SUBJECT MEETING AND THE ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL
AGENDA. AS STATED REFTEL, CENTERPIECE FOR MINISTERIAL
IS THE DRAFT BLUEPRINT. IN VIEW SHORTNESS OF TIME WE ARE
CABLING PERTINENT ITEMS ON AGENDA.

2. FOLLOWING IS ITEM 3 OF PROVISIONAL AGENDA. CONSIDER-
ATION OF BLUEPRINT FOR TRADE EXPANSION: QUOTE KEEPING IN
VIEW THE GUIDELINES AND SUGGESTIONS OF THE EXPERT GROUP
MEETING ON COOPERATION IN TRADE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC,
THE SUGGESTIONS MADE DURING THE TWENTY-FIRST SESSION OF
THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE, THE DISCUSSIONS AT THE THIRTY-
THIRD AND THIRTY-FOURTH SESSIONS OF THE COMMISSION AND
THE POINTS OF VIEW EXPRESSED BY SOME GOVERNMENTS OF THE
ESCAP REGION, THE BLUEPRINT (E/ESCAP/TRADE/MCCT/1) HAS
BEEN PREPARED WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF SUGGESTING A PROGRAM
OF ACTION TO ACHIEVE EXPANSION OF INTRAREGIONAL TRADE AND
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 21112 010140Z

COOPERATION IN THE ESCAP REGION. THIS DOCUMENT IS ALSO
TO BE PLACED BEFORE THE MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF TRADE
TO BE HELD FROM 21 TO 23 AUGUST 1978. IT IS EXPECTED
THAT THE SENIOR TRADE OFFICIALS PARTICIPATING IN THE
CURRENT MEETING WILL FORMULATE RECOMMENDATIONS AND
SUGGESTIONS ON THIS DOCUMENT FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE
MINISTERS.

QUOTE THE PROGRAM PROPOSED IN THE DOCUMENT HAS TWO MAIN SECTIONS: (A) NON-PREFERENTIAL TRADE PROMOTION MEASURES AND (B) PREFERENTIAL TRADING ARRANGEMENTS. THE DOCUMENT DEALS WITH THE VARIOUS COMPONENTS INCLUDED IN EACH SECTION OF THE PROGRAM.

QUOTE IN ORDER TO PROVIDE BACKGROUND MATERIAL NECESSARY FOR DETAILED CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSALS, A SERIES OF ANNEXES HAVE ALSO BEEN ATTACHED TO THE DOCUMENT. THE VARIOUS COMPONENTS OF THE PROGRAM HAVE BEEN ENUMERATED IN SUMMARY FORM IN PARAGRAPH 60 OF THE DOCUMENT.

QUOTE THE ANNEXES DEALING WITH SPECIFIC COMPONENTS CONTAIN THE GENERAL FRAMEWORK OF THE ACTION THAT COULD BE TAKEN UNDER EACH COMPONENT. WITH THE CONSTITUTION OF A TRADE COOPERATION GROUP AND THE SETTING-UP OF SUBGROUPS, THESE BROAD OUTLINES OF THE PROGRAM OF ACTION RELATING TO EACH COMPONENT COULD BE FINALIZED AFTER FULL DISCUSSION BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES.

QUOTE THE SENIOR TRADE OFFICIALS' MEETING HAS BEEN CONVENED IN ORDER TO PREPARE FOR THE MINISTERIAL MEETING. THE ACTUAL CONTENT AND FORM OF THE PROGRAM WOULD HAVE TO BE EVOLVED ALONG THE LINES TO BE DECIDED UPON AT THE MINISTERIAL MEETING. UNQUOTE
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PAGE 03 BANGKO 21112 010140Z

3. FOLLOWING IS ITEM 4 OF PROVISIONAL AGENDA. OTHER BUSINESS: QUOTE UNDER THIS ITEM ANY SUBJECT PROPOSED BY ANY PARTICIPATING DELEGATIONS MAY BE CONSIDERED FOR DISCUSSION WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE CHAIR. HOWEVER, IT IS EXPECTED THAT A REPORT ON THE PROGRESS/CONCLUSIONS OF THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE MEETING FOR INFORMATION. UNQUOTE

4. IN ADDITION TO REFTEL AND JUNE 8 LETTER TO SCHWARTZ, WE NOW LEARN THAT NEW ZEALAND WILL BE REPRESENTED BY A MINISTER AND THAT THE PRC WILL PROBABLY SEND A MINISTER. THE UK IS CONSIDERING BEING REPRESENTED BY THEIR HIGH COMMISSION IN DELHI AND THE NETHERLANDS IS UNDECIDED. O'DONOHUE

NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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